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#### BEHEMOTH

● Loch Ness sightings: Nessletter 116 (January 1994) mentions several new sightings of the monster. At the end of World War I, a mine-sweeper was on its way through Loch Ness. All on board taled about the "beastie" (which is highly unlikely, as there was no tradition of a monster before 1933, when even the locals were surprised). The crew was in high spirits and threw depth charges: "Up came two gigantic eels. One was 11 ft long and the other 9 ft, but that was only the tail end!" This story comes from the Viking column by Viking in the magazine "Salmon, Trout & Sea-Trout" (Feb 93). Viking himself claims once a chunk of eel had been discovered in the Foyers turbine which was 5 inches in diameter. "It must have come from an eel at least 10 ft long". Steve FELtham, still in NL 116, reports three sightings for 1993: A local lad from Foyers saw a head and neck at the same date than the McInness report; a Foyers man and his wife watched two (humps or Nessies?) at the Clansman Hotel in the very early part of 1993; on August 10, Roland O'Brian saw a back standing 4 ft out of the water of Dores Bay. "I saw a large dark hump about 500 yards out from the shore and heading towards the buoy at Dores bay. From the size of the buoy, I would estimatethat what I saw was between eight and ten feet long. It was about four feet out of the water at its highest point, making it higher than the buoy. It moved rapidly for about five minutes and seemed to be making lots of splashing in front of it. It came to a stop, then started again. It stopped again then started off again a third time. About 50 yards from the buoy it stopped." The thing then sank, only to reappear a minute later. NL 116 mentions also sightings of seals in the Loch, 2 seals were in the Loch in 1991, none in 1992, and one in 1993.

● Loch Ness theories: Studies by Adrian Shine, after years of study he had to conclude that there is not enough food in LOch Ness to support any colony of large unknown predators. I think this is the same comclusion Gary Mangiacopra reached after studying the major American lakes with monster sigfhTINGS. There is little, if any evidence, for a biological monster in these lakes and the lochs. Shine takes a kind of way out: He supposes the the LOch Ness monster is actually a giant sturgeon. "If Nessie is real", says Shine, " the Baltic sturgeon fits all the loch's parameters". Well, yes, the biological data, I suppose. But it doesn't even remotely fit the sightings reports, the land sightings, the sonar data, etc. We're faced once again <sup>with</sup> ~~by~~ the fact that, unpleasant as it may be, a sociological/folkloric explanation of the data fits the evidence best: misperception in 1933 of seals and otters and waves, construction of a myth based on the sea-serpent prototype, the invention of the monster tradition, which started in 1934 and was at first rejected by the locals, than, finally, the re-interpretation of faulty sonar data, of fake photographs etc. as hints for the monster's existence. Shine's new theory was in several papers, including The Daily TELEgraph, 29. Dec 1993 and the Inverness Courier, ? Dec 1993. Both clips were supplied by Andreas TRottmann.

● Bibliography: - Adrian Shine will take soil samples from the Loch's bottom up to a depth of 40 ft to glacial deposits (Inverness Courier 4 Feb 94, credit: Andreas Trott-mann). - In 1883, two gentlemen saw "something unusual" in Loch Lomond. It was a serpent...an adder (Nessletter 115). - In a letter from Rev Dr Gordon POWell to the Inverness Courier (19 Nov 1993) tells of his sighting of the Loch Ness monster on June 21 1936. Andreas TRottmann, who supplied the clip (thank you again and again!) has written to Powell and has send me his long report. Powell also took a picture, which Trottman will analyze with a computer. I think I had the sighting (there were many witnesses) in my list of reports which formewd an appendix for Henry Bauer's book on the subject. - Esotera (Feb 1994), the German New AGE-mag, had small notes on a Japanese expedition to Lake CHamplain to find Champ, and Shine's theory that the monster may only be a sturgeon. - Fortean Times 72, p. 6: reports of a water monster in the River Mekong. - The traditional sightings of mermaids, dragons and sea serpents in the Mummelsee, in the German Black Forest, were mentioned in a short article in the Schwarzwälder Bote, Sep 9, 1993.

#### ISIS

● Thesighting of a mermaid at the Orkneys in 1883 is described in Nessletter 115. The creature did repeatedly surface, sometimes there were even two, for several years.

#### LEVIATHAN

- Bibliography: - Article by Francois de Sarre in the *MAGazin für Grenzwissenschaften* (6/1993, p. 313-315) with his theory that the mysterious French cave painting (see last Bilks) actually shows one of Heuvelman's long-necked sea serpents. I have my doubts, and I think the archaeologists' identification as chicken is correct. - *Das Tier*, Nov 1993, p.69 has an article by Bernd Vogel: Irrgast Buckelwal. He was at Dahab at the Red Sea (date not specified) when he heard that a diving beduine had observed a fish "as big as a boat". Vogel went to investigate and finally spotted the beast, it was an 8 m humped-back whale.
- Caddy: Once again, Andreas Trottmann has sent me a very interesting item. It is from The Victoria (BC) Times Colonist, and is not dated (Andreas says Jan 94, but some lines indicate it is more likely to date to June/July 1993). It reports on two pilots who came close to breeding Caddies at Saanich Inlet. The practised water landings, then saw a creature. "It wasn't a fish or a seal or a dolphin or a porpoise". The sighting of late afternoon, July 14 (1993?) was not "extraordinarily weird", say Don Berends and James Wells. Their report was investigated by biologist Ed Bousfield, who believes the creatures come to Saanich Inlet to mate and breed in June each year. The two creatures had two hoops each. They fled from the planes, and were going quite quickly when the witnesses landed 20 to 40 ft away. The hoops were 20 cm deep and "they could see the daylight under them". The monsters were metall blue. Bousfield says little monsters (could they not have been eels or oarfish?) have been caught and released at Pirate's Cove in 1968 and at John's Island in 1991. Bousfield is sure an aerial search of the region during mating time could produce more reports. Even Berends is sure he saw a third creature slipping out of the water half a mile away, but this may have been a seal. I wish Bousfield every success - he knows where, when and how to catch his sea serpent, which qualifies him as first rate scientific discoverer. Let's hope he is right! The same (or a later) clip from the newspaper mentions a Caddy sighting by Sidney resident Terry Osland. She encountered Caddy in late June 1991 on the beach at Ardmore Ponit in Saanich Inlet. It was looking over a cliff, and was bigger than a killer whale. "It was smooth, it had no hair, and the tail was rounded like a lizard tail and it had, like little feet on the side back of the tail." The colour was silvery, it had no long neck, but left a trace like a boat on the beach. Although the witness definitely rules it out, it still sounds like an elephant seal to me.

#### CRYPTOZOOLOGY

- The Mapinguari: According to a report in the "New Scientist" # 1909, p.9, a search for the Mapinguari, "the legendary yeti of the rain forest", will start in February near Acre. The expedition will be led by the American biologist David Oren of the Goeldi Museum at Belem, Brasil. Oren said each Indian nation had its own word for the creature, which he believes is a form of giant sloth. Legend has it that the Mapinguari is a one-eyed creature with a red fur which bites the head off its victims. Idians have seen it several times from a distance, three of the creatures have allegedly been killed already. Among the witnesses are Indians, rubber farmers and gold hunters. When approached, the Mapinguari ejects stinking gases from its mouth, which is situated on its stomach! Oren thinks there is a mistake, and the animal actually has a gland on its stomach; but none of the different versions of the dpa (news agency) report I have gives an explanation for it being one-eyed. The search starts in February because the Indians have told Oren this is the time the animal comes down from the foothills of the Andes into the forests. Sources: Bietigheimer Zeitung, Jan 25; Stuttgarter Nachrichten Jan 25, p.21; Süddeutsche Zeitung Jan 25; p.10b; Ludwigsburger Kreiszeitung Jan 25, p. 12; Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung Jan 25, p.7

#### MARINE LIFE

- Whales: - 2 m beluga washed ashore at Samsun, Turkey (Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 3 January 94, p.7). This was Aydin, the whale that has been mentioned in several BILKS. - 19 m fin whale washed ashore at Porge, French Atlantic coast (Filder Zeitung, Jan 4, 94). - a living whale, 15 m in length was washed ashore at Saint-Hilaire-de-Ries, France, only one in a number of whales washed ashore there within a week (see also last item). Report in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung Jan 17, 94, p. 7). - The missing link between land mammals and whales have been excavated in Pakistan. The whale was still able to walk ashore, say scientists. (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 15 Jan 94, p.9).